

thereupon came forward and took the oath prescribed by the constitution.

On motion of Mr. Cooke, a committee was appointed to wait on the House of Representatives and inform that body that the Senate was organized, and ready to proceed to business.

Messrs. Cooke, Parker and Gage were appointed the committee.

On motion of Mr. Gage, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, August 13, 1850.

Senate met—roll called—President *pro tem.* in the chair—the following Senators answered to their names :

Messrs. Brashear, Cooke, Campbell, Gage, Grimes, Hart, Latimer, Moffett, Parker, Phillips, Robertson, Taylor, Truit, Van Derlip, Ward and Wallace—quorum present.

Journals of the preceding day read and adopted.

The committee appointed to wait upon the House of Representatives and inform them of the organization of the Senate, and their readiness to proceed to business, asked leave to perform that duty, and after a short absence returned and reported duty performed.

A committee from the House announced that the House of Representatives had organized and were ready to proceed to business.

On motion of Mr. Robertson, a committee was appointed to act in conjunction with a like committee on the part of the House, to wait upon the Governor and inform him that the two Houses of the Legislature were organized and ready to receive any communication he might wish to make to them.

Messrs. Robertson, Latimer and Van Derlip were appointed, said committee, and asked leave to perform that duty.

A message was received from the House, informing the Senate that the House had elected the following officers, to wit :

Joseph W. Hampton, Chief Clerk ; James M. Long, Assistant Clerk ; W. T. Tucker, Engrossing Clerk ; A. J. Harrell, Enrolling Clerk ; A. N. Smith, Sergeant-at arms ; and had also, appointed Messrs. Scott, Clements and Stewart a committee to act in conjunction with a committee of the Senate to wait on the Governor, and inform him of the organization of the two Houses, &c.

The committee of the Senate appointed to wait on the Gov-

ernor, &c.; reported that they have performed their duty, and that the Governor would deliver his message to-day at 11 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the Senate took recess until half after 10 o'clock, A. M.

HALF-PAST 10 O'CLOCK.

The recess having expired, the Senate was called to order—quorum present.

Mr. Gage introduced the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Door-keeper of the Senate be authorized to employ a porter to perform the menial duties about the Senate chamber, at one dollar per day.

Mr. Wallace introduced the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Governor of the State be requested to transmit to the Senate a copy of all the correspondence between himself and his predecessors in office, and the Government of the United States, relative to the establishment and maintenance of any government, civil or military by the latter at Santa Fé, in the State of Texas.

A committee from the House of Representatives invited the Senate to meet the House in the Representative Hall at 11 o'clock, to-day, for the purpose of hearing the message of the Governor read.

On motion of Mr. Brashear, the Senate proceeded to the House of Representatives to hear the message read.

IN JOINT SESSION.

Roll called—quorum present.

The message of the Governor was then read as follows :

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Austin, August 13, 1850. }

To the Honorable Senate

and House of Representatives :

GENTLEMEN: The season of the year is unfavorable for assembling the Representatives of the people, and its great heat unpropitious for mature and satisfactory deliberation. The draft which I have felt myself compelled to make upon your time and personal convenience, and the increased expenditures to the State necessarily involved by the extraordinary session now convened, were subjects maturely considered, and gave me for a time painful solicitude.

But as the intrinsic weight of the great question which I shall have the honor to present for your consideration, continued from time to time to augment and to present itself in bolder relief according as I bestowed reflection upon it, the objections to the

call which at first seemed to possess validity and force, were soon lost in the superior consideration, that a serious wound was about to be inflicted upon the honor of our State, and great detriment about to accrue to her most important interests.

As the head of the Executive Department of the State Government, possessing most clearly no remedial agency strong and efficacious enough for the emergency, I could only acquiesce in the necessity which obliged me to play the subordinate but interesting part of a sentinel, charged with the duty of guarding with sleepless vigilance against all unfriendly approaches, and to sound the alarm whenever the sanctity of our rights should be assailed, no matter from what quarter and in what form.

Upon receiving the report of the Commissioner appointed under the authority of the act of the last Legislature, to provide for the civil organization of the counties of Presidio, El Paso, Worth and Santa Fe, and other information which subsequently came to my knowledge connected with the subject of that report, it occurred to me, that if the "occasion" contemplated by the constitution for the exercise of the power by the Executive of convening the Legislature in extraordinary session could ever exist, it was presented by the various facts and circumstances, in reference to a portion of the territory of our State, requiring in my judgment the most prompt and decisive action on the part of this Government; and though fully sensible of the inconvenience and probable hardships to which I must expose you, in asking your presence at the Seat of Government at a season so unfavorable, still the oath I had taken, faithfully to administer the duties of the station which I occupy, did not permit me to disregard the necessity of invoking the aid and assistance of the legislative wisdom of the country at a crisis in which the interest, honor, and character of the State were so deeply involved.

In accordance with the provision and requirement of the act of January 4th, 1850, Robert S. Neighbors, Esq., was with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed the Commissioner of the State, to carry into operation the objects contemplated by it, and after receiving such instruction and aid as it was in the power of the Executive to afford, he left the City of Austin on the 8th day of January for the region of country in which the duties of his mission required his presence and action.

Upon his arrival in the County of El Paso, he took the necessary measures for its immediate organization, and by his prudence, zeal, and activity, he succeeded to the fullest extent of our expectations. Within the space of a few weeks, he effected with a people heretofore unaccustomed to our Government and laws,

and strongly imbued with prejudices against us as a race, a full recognition of the rights and of their relations to it, and inspired in them a desire to cultivate those relations in the performance of all the obligations of good citizens. The complete and perfect returns of the organization of that county made by him to the State Department, afford the best evidence of the ability with which the organization was conducted, and it is adverted to now for the purpose of shewing the capacity of the Commissioner for the performance of the duties assigned him, and that the want of entire success in executing the act referred to above, is in no wise to be ascribed to any deficiency on his part.

The success of Major Neighbors in the County of El Paso, gave rise to strong hopes of accomplishing the purposes of his mission in the County of Santa Fe, and these hopes were strengthened by assurances that he would meet with no opposition or obstacles on the part of the officers commanding the United States forces at that place. Previous to his departure from El Paso, he was furnished with a copy of an Official Order issued at Santa Fe on the 12th day of March, 1850, by Col. John Munroe, commanding the 9th Military Department, recognizing him as "a Commissioner of the State of Texas *for the purpose of establishing the civil jurisdiction of the State over this territory,*" and requiring from the military authorities under his command, a rigid non-interference with him in the exercise of his functions. This order and the course which it indicated as the one to be pursued by the authorities of the United States, was all that he demanded. It is true it was not all that he had a right to expect from the justice and liberality of the General Government, but it would have been sufficient to have enabled him to accomplish the object he had undertaken, had it been observed in good faith. I regret to be compelled to state however, that it was not observed in good faith—very far from it.

Your honorable body will perceive from the report of the Commissioner and accompanying documents, copies of which are herewith submitted, marked A, that on his arrival at Santa Fe, he not only met with every discouragement on the part of the individual exercising the authority of civil and military Gov., but it was distinctly intimated to him, that if he succeeded in holding his elections, and in qualifying the officers elected, the jurisdiction of Texas would not be recognized.—Superadded to this, he was threatened by a judge holding a commission from the President of the United States with imprisonment if he attempted to enforce the laws of the State over that territory. Appeals were made by the same Judge to the populace to resist the authority of

the State. Public meetings were called and held with the same object which were presided over and comprised principally of the officers and other persons in the pay and employment of the United States Government—and all this under the immediate eye and observation of the commanding officer, who if not the projector of these proceedings, unquestionably yielded his assent to them, and subsequently adopted them, by issuing his proclamation calling a convention to form a government adverse to, and independent of our own.

This course of conduct on the part of Col. Munroe would seem strange after his *order of March* the 12th, were we not able to account for it by a belief which scarcely admits a doubt, that subsequent to the date of the order, he received instructions to repudiate the rights and authority of Texas in that territory.— That he received what he regarded as equivalent to such instructions there can exist no doubt. If the tone and import of the message sent by the President of the United States to the Senate on the 17th of June were not sufficient to satisfy the mind on this subject, the letter of the Hon. Volney E. Howard of July the 4th, addressed to the Editors of the Southern Press, with confirmatory evidence from other quarters, places it beyond question.— Copies of these documents are submitted herewith, marked B, with the request, that they may receive the consideration which they merit.

As soon as it was practicable to prepare the documents after receiving the report of the commissioner, I transmitted them to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, in order that they might be fully advised in an official shape of the actual state of things at Santa Fé.

I also addressed a letter to the President of the United States, accompanied with a copy of Col. Munroe's proclamation calling a convention to form a State Government in New Mexico, and most respectfully asked him to say whether or not, he recognized and sanctioned the acts of Col. Munroe, so far as they affected the rights of Texas. At the same time I addressed a letter to the Hon. Volney E. Howard covering a Protest against the unlawful usurpation by the Federal Authorities of our rights at Santa Fé; and requested him to lay it before the President in the event of his Excellency's declining to disavow the acts of his military subordinates in that territory.

Copies of my letters to the President, to Mr. Howard, to the Delegation in Congress and of the Protest, are herewith submitted, marked C.

Although the proceedings referred to; no longer permitted me to

indulge the hope intimated in the communication which I had the honor to lay before you, shortly after entering upon my official duties, "that the difficulties encountered in our efforts to extend the jurisdiction of the State over that portion of her territory may have resulted from tardiness of action on the part of the Federal Authorities, rather than a deliberate design to do us wrong;" yet, I was anxious that the President should have one more opportunity of disclaiming such design, and hence it was, that I requested our Delegation in Congress to have an interview with him on the subject previous to the delivery of the protest.—No such disclaimer however has been received, and facts which have since come to my knowledge, indicate most clearly that none such was made or intended to be made.

Having thus, gentlemen, placed before you, in a very plain and brief manner, the most prominent facts and circumstances connected with our relations with Santa Fé, as they have recently been developed, and having called your attention to the unwarrantable assumption of power by the Executive branch of the Federal Government in its direct interference with the municipal and internal affairs of a sovereign State, the question at once presents itself—what course does duty, honor, patriotism and a just appreciation of our solemn obligations to the country require us to adopt?

I am fully sensible, that this is a question involving the most serious considerations, and in its contemplation there is commingled much of hope and apprehension. But who will falter in the pathway of duty though the wrong-doer be there powerful and mighty? On the one hand our devotion to the Union—a devotion manifested in the confiding spirit with which we yielded many of the most important attributes of sovereignty for a connection with it—renders us averse to the adoption of measures, which might seem by possibility to contemplate a collision with any of its constituted authorities, while, on the other hand, a just sense of what is due to ourselves, will not permit us to submit to outrages and wrong from any quarter. So long as we were permitted to cherish the hope, that there existed no fixed or premeditated design, to deprive us of our acknowledged and essential rights, our language was that of entreaty and supplication—our course that of forbearance and moderation: but with the undeniable evidence now before us of a settled determination to despoil us, regardless of compacts and constitutional guaranties, of at least one-third of our territory—a continuance of such language and such a course, would be degradation and shame.

Difficult and embarrassing then, as the question undoubtedly

is, and however fraught its contemplation with painful solicitude, we have left us no choice, but to meet it. It must be met boldly, and fearlessly and determined. Not by further supplication or discussion with Federal authorities ; not by renewed appeals to their generosity and sympathy ; not by a longer reliance on the delusive hope, that justice will yet be extended to us ; but by action—manly and determined action on our part, by a prompt assertion of our rights and a practical maintenance of them with all the means we can command, *“at all hazards and to the last extremity.”*

After deeply, and I trust maturely reflecting on this subject, with a mind guided by the most anxious desire, to take no step in it which would not command the approbation of my fellow citizens and the reflecting portion of those of our sister States, whose interest in this matter is strongly assimilated to ours, it is my deliberate and firm conviction that there is now left us but one course consistent with honor, and a just sense of what is due to ourselves as a sovereign community, and that is, the immediate adoption by your honorable body with perfect unanimity, of such measures as are necessary for the occupation of Santa Fé, with a force ample to quell the arrogant and rebellious spirit now prevailing there, and to enable us to extend and firmly establish the jurisdiction and laws of the State over it.

Should the adoption and unswerving enforcement of these measures lead to a conflict with those who, by Executive authority, are now unlawfully exercising the powers of a government adverse to our interests within our defined and acknowledged limits, there are none who would regret that conflict, and the consequences which would most probably flow from it, more than myself: but I should be consoled in the contemplation of its fearful results by the reflection that it was not a difficulty of our seeking—that every effort on our part, save that of craven submission to lawless outrage and insult, had been employed to avert it, and confiding in the justice of our cause, I should fearlessly meet it, trusting and feeling assured that Texas would stand exonerated before the world, even should that conflict shake to its very centre the most glorious confederacy upon which the sun has ever shone.

I am not of the number of those who have attempted to estimate the value of the Union. I regard its benefits, when they are administered in conformity with the spirit and principles of its constitution, as unappreciable by those who are left in their undisturbed enjoyment. But, when the guaranties of that sacred instrument are set at naught, or when force shall be resorted to as

the legitimate mode of their interpretation, it will then cease to be a Union entitled to our reverence, because it will have ceased to possess the power of extending equal and mutual benefits to all of its members.

In view, then, of the unpleasant and extraordinary position in which we are placed, and of the absolute necessity of immediate and decisive action on our part, I recommend that your honorable body authorize the Executive to raise, with as little delay as possible, *with power to supply*, at least two regiments of mounted volunteers for the contemplated move to and occupancy of Santa Fé.

In making this recommendation, I am not unmindful of the heavy expenses which it will involve, and the embarrassing difficulties which will be presented in raising the necessary funds to meet them : but I rely with great confidence on the wisdom of the Legislature in devising some effective means to meet the emergency—recollecting that Texas in a much darker and more embarrassed period of her pecuniary resources prepared to encounter, and did successfully encounter, a more appalling conflict.

It may not be improper, in connection with this subject, to remind your honorable body that there is now lying idle and unprofitably in the Treasury the sum of \$34,443 00 which has been set apart, in accordance with a provision of the constitution, as a school fund. It is true that this fund cannot be appropriated to any other object than that for which it was originally designed. But may not its present shape be changed by converting it into one of different and more profitable character for the ultimate attainment of the ends contemplated, without violating any constitutional provision?

In my general message to you in December last, I suggested the plan of converting it by loan or otherwise into some profitable stock bearing interest, until it shall be sufficient to authorize its useful employment in the way designed; being then convinced, as I am now, "that it would be totally lost if distributed amongst the various counties, whilst the amount was too inconsiderable to effect any beneficial purpose." It is true that, at that time, I was, from the imperfect reflection I had been able to give to the subject, of the opinion that such a conversion was not authorized from the terms of the constitution, but upon further consideration, and a more critical examination of the phraseology employed, I am led to doubt somewhat the entire correctness of the view then entertained. The expressions that "no law shall ever be made diverting said fund to any other use than the support of free public schools," would probably be construed to mean that the value,

the essential property of the fund, shall never be applied to any other purpose, and not that the evidences of that value shall not be changed or converted into other evidences, equally available and more beneficial to the objects intended to be promoted by it. I submit the subject, however, for your consideration, remarking that I should be amongst the last to weaken the guards which were manifestly intended to be placed around the fund alluded to, and if it could be now profitably employed, I would not make the suggestion which I have done, though the object to which it is desired to apply it is second in importance to none other. If you shall concur with me that the change proposed is admissible, I suggest that you make provision for issuing stock by the State, bearing interest at eight per cent., to the extent of that fund, payable at any time hereafter when in the judgment of the Legislature it may be desirable to call it in, and that ample security be provided for its redemption in a pledge of the public domain, and as much of the proceeds arising from the sale of any portion of it as may be necessary, strengthening these pledges with any further securities that you may deem proper.

The money, now lying idle and profitless in the Treasury, might thus be made auxilliary to the other resources of the State in preparing and fitting out a military expedition, and at the same time the fund would be increased by its employment in this most worthy manner.

The State has at this time about six hundred stand of arms which could be used if actually necessary to supply any unavoidable deficiencies, but it should be required in my judgment, that any troops mustered for the service indicated, should be required to mount, arm and equip themselves, and it is believed that our citizens are patriotic enough to enrol themselves under the banner of their State upon an occasion like the present, without expecting any advance of pay for their services; but I would recommend that the Legislature make as ample provision as the resources to be derived from our public lands will permit, to secure them a just and liberal compensation covering their pay proper, and likewise satisfactory reimbursement for all actual unavoidable losses which they may incur while in the service of the State.

A statement of the present and prospective condition and resources of the Treasury, together with estimates of the probable amount which will be required for munitions of war, provisions and transportation, will be laid before you for such action as will be proper on your part. marked D.

While addressing you on the subject of our difficulties at Santa Fe, and suggesting as I have done, the only course which to my

mind is capable of affording a remedy, it would be improper for me not to call your attention to certain measures now pending before the Congress of the United States, and in which amongst other things, it is proposed to establish a government for New Mexico, with a boundary extending south to the 32d parallel of north latitude, and east to the one hundredth parallel of west longitude, striking off thereby, unceremoniously, nearly one third of the territory embraced within the heretofore acknowledged and recognized limits of this State. This plan is accompanied with a proposition to Texas to give her dollars for a relinquishment of her claim, or in plainer language, to give her dollars, provided she will quietly stand aloof, and permit a party in Congress, known to be adverse to certain institutions of the south, and seeking every opportunity to assail them, to partition her territory in a manner consonant with their views to afford them another means of carrying out their favorite policy on that subject.

However willing Texas may have been, and may still be to *dispose* of a portion of her north western territory, upon fair, equitable and honorable terms, I cannot believe that any party respectable for its numbers or intelligence, will be found amongst us who would be willing to accept a proposition so degrading to the character and dignity of the State, as the one contained in the bill reported by the Compromise Committee of the Senate. The right of the General Government to dispose of any portion of the territory of a sovereign State without its consent, cannot be admitted or acquiesced in by a free people, so long as they retain any just conception of the relative rights and obligations of the Federal and State Governments to each other; and so true is this principle, that notwithstanding this movement in reference to Texas, it seems not to be denied by those who are advocating the measure; for they place the foundation of their proceedings in the assumption, that we have no right or title to the territory in question!

The question of our title we will not again discuss, as it can result in no practical good; and indeed it would be humiliating to do so, after so much has been said in reference to it. "The argument is exhausted." Those who now deny our claim, would continue to do so, were it placed before them in characters written with a sunbeam. It stands in the way of the attainment of their darling object in respect to slavery, and to deny it affords the only pretext which can be found for avoiding the stipulations of the compact under which Texas became a member of the Confederacy. Public faith is to be sacrificed at the shrine of an

unhallowed fanaticism, and in the opinions of some occupying prominent positions in the councils of the country, the constitution itself should be made to yield to a morbid philanthropy originating and existing only in the heated imaginations of partizan zealots. Texas can never be guided by such influences. She will never, it is hoped, debase herself in the eyes of her sister States of the South, by giving her assent to measures so manifestly intended to strike a blow at their most vital interests; and she regards the attempt to purchase her acquiescence in so unholy a scheme, as an insult offered to the integrity, common sense and honor of her citizens. If a proposition had been made founded *upon her acknowledged rights of territory*, to purchase from her that portion of it lying north of the 34th degree of north latitude, and accompanied with a sufficient guarantee that the provisions of the Joint Resolutions for annexation in respect to slavery should be observed, the most respectful consideration would have been given to it, and I risk but little in saying, that a large majority of our fellow citizens would have met such a proposition in the most liberal spirit, and with a sincere desire to accord every thing reasonable and just that might have been asked in reference to it.

I have deemed it my duty to call your attention to this subject, because it may not be inappropriate for you, coming directly from the people, to give an expression of the public sentiment in regard to it. Such an expression may have a salutary influence elsewhere—if not in producing more liberal and just action toward us, at least in cutting off a discussion which must be fruitless in the attainment of its object. It is true that this proposition so objectionable and offensive in its terms to us, has not so far as we are informed obtained the sanction of either branch of Congress, and the hope is still indulged that it may receive such modifications and changes as will make it meritorious and worthy of our consideration; but while we may flatter ourselves with this reasonable expectation, you need not be prevented from an expression of your opinion in reference to it, clear and unequivocal, and should not, in my humble judgment, prevent your decided and prompt action in regard to the course to be pursued in sustaining in relation to Santa Fe, the integrity, character and interest of the State.

In my message submitted to you in December last, I used the following language: "The State should unquestionably use the necessary means to cause her laws to be obeyed and respected etc. I therefore recommend that the Executive be authorized to send to Santa Fe, if the necessity for doing so should contin-

ue to exist, a military force *sufficient* to enable the civil authorities to execute the laws of the State in that portion of the territory, without reference to any anticipated action of the Federal Government, or regard to the military power of the United States stationed at Santa Fe. I make this recommendation with more freedom, because I cannot conceive that a measure of this character, will, or ought to give rise to any disturbance in our relations with the Federal Government. The right of Texas to enforce her jurisdiction is not more perfect in the county of Travis, than it is in the county of Santa Fe; and if the employment of the necessary force to enable her to exercise that right over a refractory population, should produce a collision with the Federal Authorities, the fault will not be hers.—She will stand exonerated in the judgment of just men from all the fearful consequences which may result from such a conflict. In suggesting to the Legislature the propriety of authorizing the Executive to send a military force to Santa Fe, I am not unmindful of the increased pecuniary burthens, which the exercise of the authority will impose upon our present tax-paying citizens. I trust, however, that the necessity of carrying into effect a measure of this sort may yet be averted. If the difficulties encountered in our efforts to extend the jurisdiction of the State over that portion of her territory, have resulted from the tardiness of action on the part of the Federal Authorities, rather than from a deliberate design to do us a wrong, (and it may be ascribed to that cause,) we may still encourage the hope that a sense of magnanimity and justice may induce her, upon being advised of the course we have resolved to pursue, if driven to it, to adopt such measures as will supercede the necessity of incurring this expense; but the indulgence of this hope should not prevent your action upon the subject. Such action may accelerate—it cannot retard the issue and adjustment of the question.”

I must be permitted to express my regret that the Honorable Legislature did not accord in the propriety of this recommendation, since every circumstance which has transpired in connection with this matter establishes the fact, that their concurrence in the views then expressed, and by placing at the disposal of the Executive a comparatively small military force, the difficulties and embarrassments now surrounding this subject would have terminated, our jurisdiction been formally established in that county; the State saved from a heavy expense, and the Executive from the unpleasant necessity of assembling you at this unfavorable season of the year. Even the Military Commander at Santa Fe, intimated to our Commissioner, that if Texas at that

period had made a suitable military demonstration at Santa Fe, it would have had the effect of keeping in check the rebellious and disorganizing spirit, fostered and kept alive there by designing and political demagogues,—and it requires no prophetic spirit to foresee, that had we then or at a previous day taken possession of the country, under circumstances which would have enabled us to maintain it, a very different course would have been adopted in reference to our claim from the one which is now brought forward and attempted to be established.

I do not, I assure you gentlemen, advert to these things in any spirit of querulous complaint. It was my duty to submit to you such recommendations as I deemed proper; it was your privilege to take such action thereon as your judgment sanctioned; but they are referred to, that we may profit by the experience of the past, and not permit any delusive hope to stop or retard present and future action. We have already suffered from a confidence in others too generous and implicit. Let us not increase that suffering by affording additional advantages to those who would seek to despoil us of our rights.

I have had prepared and herewith lay before you, copies of all documents connected with this subject which may be useful to you in your deliberations. Among them are my instructions to Maj. Neighbors, and address to the people of the counties of Presidio, El Paso, Worth and Santa Fé, marked E.

I might elaborate the subject of our difficulties connected with Santa Fé, by tracing their origin and progress more fully, by enumerating the various expedients which have been employed to alienate the population of that part of our territory from us; and a strong appeal could be made to your sympathies and feelings of State pride, by reference to the blood bought sacrifices which Texas has made in the acquisition of the country over which she claims sovereignty. But it is not necessary. I will remark that Texas cannot with any propriety be charged with being impatient or precipitate in this matter of disputed boundary; on the contrary her too patient reliance on the justice of the General Government has brought her present evils upon her.—Humility and patience have characterized her course so far, and should occasionally any feelings of indignation be betrayed in her councils or by her citizens, let it be remembered in justice, that the great head of the family of States may not claim entire exemption from the frailties of nature.

But there should be no criminations or recriminations between the Federal and State Governments. A proper appreciation of the Union and its benefits abides in our State, and so long as this

sentiment can exist consistent with independence and honor, it will be fostered with pride.

But our rights are still our rights, and when, and in what manner they are to be asserted and maintained, the representatives of the people are now called on to determine. In your deliberations and final action upon this grave and important subject, I trust your honorable body will exhibit firmness, tempered with mildness; decision, after the free exercise of an enlightened judgment; self respect, with a decent regard for the opinions of those who stand adversely to us; and obtaining a complete victory over those high passions which the occasion and these turbulent times are so much calculated to engender, you will, it is hoped, exhibit to the world that the youngest member of a great confederacy can, when she feels herself aggrieved, assert with the confidence which justice inspires, her just claims, and by a moral force effectuate a noble end, which in other ages and countries could only be consummated by political convulsions and the sword.

I have humbly and in great sincerity given you my views and made such recommendations as my judgment approved. If the suggestions which I have made shall meet your concurrence, I shall indeed be pleased. If in the resources of your collective wisdom you conceive a better plan for the attainment of the end proposed, I shall be most happy to co-operate with you in the approval and execution of it.

It is my duty to announce to you that since the adjournment of your honorable body in February last, there has been no abatement of Indian hostilities on our frontier. The sufferings of our fellow citizens on several portions of it have increased, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts made by the veteran Commander, Gen. Brooke, to afford security. This officer is crippled in his action by the miserable policy emanating from the Capital.

There are other subjects which I might present worthy of legislative action; but consulting the wishes of our fellow-citizens, the public expense, and your convenience, but little will be presented by me to the Honorable Legislature, disconnected with the main object for which you were assembled.

In conclusion, allow me to add, that we are called on for an expression of our grateful thanks to a kind Providence for its manifold blessings, and most humbly to invoke His aid in giving to our beloved State a happy issue out of all her misfortunes, and to our common country peace.

P. H. BELL.

[For documents accompanying Governor's Message, see Appendix.]

On motion of Mr. Van Derlip, the Senate returned to the Senate chamber.

On motion of Mr. Van Derlip, the committee on printing and contingent expenses was instructed to contract for 2,000 copies of the Governor's message, for the use of the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Gage, Mr. Campbell was added to the committee on Printing and Contingent Expenses.

On motion of Mr. Wallace, the Senate adjourned until 9 o'clock, A. M. to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, August 14, 1850.

Senate met—roll called—President *pro tem.* in the chair—The following Senators answered to their names:

Messrs. Brashear, Cooke, Campbell, Gage, Grimes, Hart, Latimer, Moffett, Parker, Phillips, Robertson, Taylor, Truit, Van Derlip, Ward and Wallace—quorum present.

Mr. Gage, from the committee on Printing and Contingent Expenses, made the following report:

The committee on Printing and Contingent Expenses, to whom was intrusted the contracting for the printing of two thousand copies of the Governor's message; report that they have contracted with Messrs. DeCordovas, the conductors of the South-Western American, for that number, at three cents per copy.

Mr. Grimes introduced a bill to alter the time of holding the District Court in the seventh judicial district of the State of Texas; read first time.

Mr. Robertson moved the indefinite postponement of the bill; upon which the yeas and nays were called, and stood thus:

Yeas: Messrs. Brashear, Burleson, Campbell, Hart, Latimer, Robertson, Taylor, Truit and Ward—9.

Nays: Messrs. Cooke, Gage, Grimes, Moffett, Parker, Phillips Van Derlip and Wallace—8.

Mr. Wallace moved that the rules of the last session be adopted—carried.

Mr. Wallace presented a communication from John S. Besser, which, on his motion, was referred to the committee on Penitentiary.

Mr. Robertson offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That no business other than that recommended to